

Message Text

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TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, PORG, ML, US

SUBJ: POST INSPECTION

REF: STATE 212387

1. HAVE JUST SENT OFF REPLY LOUGHRAN LETTER BY POUCH BUT
WILL SUMMARIZE LETTER FOR COMPLIANCE REPORT.

2. INSPECTOR'S REPORT IMPRESSIVE DOCUMENT, WELL-WRITTEN,
WELL-ORGANIZED, AND EXCELLENT OVERVIEW U.S. INTERESTS
WEST AFRICA, CONTAINING SEVERAL DISCERNING PROPOSALS SUCH
AS RECOMMENDATION NIGERIA BE BROUGHT INTO REGIONAL PLAN-
NING FOR SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT.

3. BELIEVE REGIONALISM AND HOW TO PROMOTE IT AMONG MOST
IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT ISSUES WE FACE IN AFRICA. RE-ESTAB-
LISHMENT AID COUNTRY MISSIONS SAHEL COUNTRIES WITH TRANSFER
SOME ADO REGIONAL FUNCTIONS AND PERSISTENT PROBLEMS WITH OMVS
PROJECTS MALI POINT UP DIFFICULTY IMPOSING REGIONAL STRATEGY
ON DESPERATELY POOR COUNTRIES SIMPLY BY IMPOSING REGIONAL
FRAMEWORK ON DISPENSING AID. THIRD EXAMPLE IS CILSS
WHICH HAS NOT REALLY ADDRESSED LIFE AND DEATH ISSUES
DROUGHT RELIEF PAST 18 MONTHS. GOM HAS STRONG PREFERENCE
BILATERAL APPROACH AND AT DIFFERENT TIMES HAS VOICED
SCEPTICISM ABOUT UTILITY CILSS AND EVEN ABOUT FAO AND UNDP
FOR DONOR COORDINATION.

4. WHILE INSPECTOR'S REPORT RECOMMEND "ENCOURAGEMENT REGIONAL
COOPERATION IN INTERESTS OF STABILITY" I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY HOW
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ONE GOES ABOUT IT. SUGGEST BEST HOPE FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

NOT RELATED ESTABLISHMENT REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUT ENCOURAGEMENT SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL VENTURES (BAMAKO-BASED MAURITANIA AIRLIFT, OVERLAND GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO MALI'S SIXTH REGION VIA NIGER AND DAHOMEY, AND MALI'S FREE PORT ZONES IN DAKAR AND ABIDJAN). REGIONAL COOPERATION MAY INVOLVE SORT OF PROCESS WE ENGAGED IN WITH AMERICAN-SOVIET DETENTE, THAT IS, SUCCESS IN ONE LIMITED AREA WILL STIMULATE SUCCESS IN ANOTHER LIMITED AREA, LEADING TO NETWORK COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS THAT PRODUCE DETENTE, OR IN CASE OF WEST AFRICA, REGIONALISM. I SEE MORE HOPE IN PRAGMATIC APPROACH RATHER THAN FORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL APPROACH OF SUPPORT SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS CILSS OR OMVS. EVEN LONG-ESTABLISHED REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS EAST AFRICA COMMUNITIES HAVE'T SUCCEEDED AVOID POLITICAL INSTABILITY WITNESS CONTINUING FRICTION BETWEEN UGANDA AND TANZANIA.

5. I WOULD TAKE ISSUE WITH DESCRIPTION OUR POLICY IN SAHEL AS "CAUTIOUS AND ROUTINE". AID R&R PROGRAMS REPRESENT BOLD AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH IN WHICH MILLIONS DOLLARS BEING EFFECTIVELY SPENT IN COURSE ONE YEAR UNDER STREAMLINED DISBURSING PROCEDURE WHICH CONTRASTS SHARPLY ROUTINE AID PROJECT PLANNING CHARACTERIZED BY YEARS OF DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION. (WE COULD CITE EXAMPLES IN MALI.) AGREE THAT IN ABSENCE U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS MALI, OUR MOTIVATION ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY HUMANITARIAN AND IN COMPARISON WITH VAST AMOUNTS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOING TO VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND MIDDLE EAST, SAHEL POLICY ROUTINE AND CAUTIOUS IN THAT SENSE.

6. INSPECTORS HAVE MADE MANY OTHER EXCELLENT SUGGESTIONS SUCH AS URGING CLOSER INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGE BETWEEN STATE AND AID. AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR STAGGERED TOURS, LANGUAGE-TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED OFFICERS, UNIFORM POLICY TOWARD THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS, AND USE FOREIGN VEHICLES SAHEL POSTS.

7. I THINK INSPECTOR'S REPORT HAS ADDED GREATLY OUR UNDERSTANDING U.S. INTERESTS IN WEST AFRICA PROVIDING ADDED PERSPECTIVE AND EMPHASIZING SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RATHER THAN LIMITING COMMENTS AS IN PAST YEARS TO POST

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OPERATIONS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY I FULLY ENDORSE NEW APPROACH AND REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.
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